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10 October 1957
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
Attention, Chief, Field Coordination Staff

FROM: Assistant Director for Basic Intelligence

SUBJECT: Semi-annual Report to the President's Board
of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities

1. Attached is the progress report on the NIS Program requested in your memorandum of 27 September 1957, subject as above.

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Enclosure:
Basic Intelligence

Distribution:
Orig and 1 - addressee
1 - Reports (Pres Bd/Consultants)
1 - Special Studies
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BASIC INTELLIGENCE

1. The NIS program again accomplished for FY 1957 the annual production requirements set by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This brought the total of NIS produced during the nine years of the program's operations to 3, 732 sections, representing 67% of initial world coverage principally on areas of high and moderate JCS priorities. NIS maintenance production accounted for 371 of these sections. It is also noteworthy that NIS Gazetteers comprising two million standardized geographic names have now been produced on all foreign countries and areas of the world. To extend their usefulness, NIS geographic name lists as generated are released to the Public Printer through the U. S. Board on Geographic Names for sale to the general public. To date 49 of these public gazetteers have been issued.

2. During the reporting period a comprehensive revision of the NIS Standard Instructions which reflected new and changing requirements was issued. Published also was a new NIS Reference Guide to provide for a better understanding and more effective use of the NIS among the growing body of NIS recipients.

3. In spite of the severe cutbacks in Defense Agencies' manpower, the NIS Committee will endeavor to maintain production capabilities by means of the most efficient production and review procedures that can be devised. In the opinion of the Committee, it is essential that the present capabilities for meeting the JCS annual requirements be sustained in order to ensure the validity and adequacy of basic intelligence that is vital to the national security. About one-third of the initial NIS world coverage remains to be done and the other two-thirds, representing nine years of irreplaceable investment, requires an increasing maintenance effort to assure its continuing usefulness.

4. Although the authorized NIS Staffs in the Department of State have been maintained at adequate levels, their capabilities have been markedly reduced to a present level of only 35% of scheduled commitments by dislocations resulting from Foreign Service integration and by frequent diversion of their efforts in support of the Departmental Staffs. It is reported that recommendations toward remedial action are under immediate study in the Department.

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